



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer
of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector



For the Year Ending December, 1939

John George, Ltd., Printers, Pelinstone.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Urban District of Felixstowe for the year 1939
with which is incorporated the Sanitary Inspector's Report

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

Particulars required by the Ministry of Health:—

Medical Officer of Health: G. J. Conford, M.A., D.M. OXON.

Sanitary Inspector: Robert Greenwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Area of District in acres	...	...	4281
Resident population at the middle of 1939			12600
Average population for calculation of			
Death rate	...	...	12600
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1939			3563
Live births	...	...	180
Birth rate	14.2	per thousand	
Deaths	...	...	175
Death rate	13.8	per thousand	
Deaths from puerperal causes	...		Nil
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...		6
Death rate of infants per 1000 births registered			33
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	27
„ „ Measles	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping cough	...		Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil

VITAL STATISTICS

I have taken the figure 12600 as a basis for estimating the birth and death rates, this representing the Registrar General's estimate for 1938, plus the average annual increase for the last few years. When I receive the Registrar General's figures they will be printed separately and added to this report with any necessary corrections as to the birth and death rate, etc.

BIRTH RATE. 180 births were registered in the district, 89 males and 91 females. On the estimate of the population given above, this gives a rate of 14.2 per thousand. The returns as to inward and outward transfers, legitimacy or illegitimacy, have not yet been received.

DEATH RATE. 164 deaths were registered in the district, with 3 outward and 14 inward transfers, giving 175 as properly belonging to this district. The death rate is thus 13.8 per thousand. In 1938 the birth rate was 11.5 per thousand, and the death rate 12.7 per thousand. Both have increased but the proportion this year is in favour of the birth rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. There were 5 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, with one inward transfer, a total of 6. The rate is thus 33 per thousand births registered.

There was only one death from pulmonary tuberculosis and two from other tuberculous diseases, so that the death rate is only .23 per thousand.

Details as to the prevalence of tuberculosis are given in the accompanying table.

CANCER. The incidence of cancer and the death rate from this cause are about the same as last year. Full details are given in the accompanying table. There were 27 deaths including 3 inward and 1 outward transfer.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Patients suffering from notifiable infectious diseases are sent to the Isolation hospital, Ipswich, and disinfection of premises and clothing is done by the employees of the Felixstowe Urban District Council.

The accompanying table gives all the details and the statement of the expenses of treatment and prevention, has been supplied by Mr. Tuddenham, the Accountant.

The account is for the period March 31st, 1938, to March 31st, 1939.

	£	s.	d.
Cost of maintenance of patients in Ipswich			
Isolation Hospital ...	208	11	0
Disinfectants, etc. ...	17	15	3½
Meat Inspections and Laboratory fees	59	3	0
Postages and Sundries ...	3	2	1
Books, Forms, etc. ...	10	13	0
Proportion of cost of Depot & Stables	7	13	7½
Sanitary Inspector's Car Allowance	50	0	0
Wages ...	178	15	9
Gas Pump and Cyanogas ...	3	9	0
	539	2	9
Fees received for disinfecting	29	9	6
" " Hospital			
Maintenance	9	10	0
		38	19 6
	£500	3	3

TABLE of INFECTIOUS DISEASES for 1939

Disease	Age Periods						Total	Treated in Hosp.	Deaths
	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45			
Scarlet fever ...	2		4	1	1	1	9	7	Nil
Diphtheria ...					1		1	1	"
Anterior Poliomyelitis			1				1	1	"
Totals	2		5	1	2	1	11	9	"

The above table shews that the incidence of infectious disease has been very light. All of the patients except three were inhabitants of the district. The case of diphtheria was a soldier at Landguard fort, the case of anterior poliomyelitis was a child sent into the district from London under the Government evacuation scheme and one of the scarlet fever cases was an inhabitant of Ipswich staying at the Bartlet Convalescent Home.

The expense of removing patients to the Ipswich Isolation Hospital and of their treatment is paid by this district. Disinfection is done by the staff of this Council.

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TUBERCULOSIS TABLE FOR 1939

NEW CASES

DEATHS

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
1-5				1	1				1	1
5-15		1			1					
15-25		2		1	3					
25-35	1	1	1		3			1		1
35-45	1		1		2	1				1
45-55	1	1			2		1x			1
55-65		1			1					
Totals	3	6	2	2	13	1	1	1	1	4

Note. Of the new cases five were not primary notifications in this district, but were transferred from other areas.

Of the deaths, the case marked thus x was transferred into this district and died elsewhere so that it is not included in the mortality table.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER FOR 1939

MALES FEMALES
Respira- Non- Respira- Non-
tory torv torv torv
Totals

Number of cases on Register on Jan. 1st, 1939	14	3	9	2	28
Number of Cases notified for the first time during 1939 in this district	2	2	2	2	8
Cases transferred from other districts and notified to me by the County M.O.H.	1		4		5
Number of cases removed from the Register in 1939	3	1	5	1	10
Number remaining on Register on December 31st, 1939	14	4	10	3	31

There were no deaths of previously unnotified cases of tuberculosis.

No case has arisen in which legal action under the regulations for the prevention of tuberculosis has been necessary.

CANCER MORTALITY TABLE for 1939.

Region affected	20-45		Age Periods				Totals		Both sexes
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Larynx ...			1		1		2		2
Tongue ..			1				1		1
Gullet ...			2				2		2
Stomach ...				1		3		4	4
Bowel & Rectum		1	1		2	2	3	3	6
Breast ..				4				4	4
Mediastinum ..						1		1	1
Ovary ...		1						1	1
Penis ...					1		1		1
Prostate					1		1		1
Uterus ...						1		1	1
Vulva ...						1		1	1
Kidney ...					1		1		1
Spine ...		1						1	1
		3	5	5	6	8	11	16	27

Note. The above table enumerates the deaths from cancer properly belonging to the district, 3 inward transfers having been added and one outward transfer deducted. The total of deaths from cancer in 1938 was 28.

The Felixstowe Cottage Hospital and the East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich, attend to cases of cancer in the ordinary course of their work, examination of scrapings and sections being undertaken by Dr. Biddle, the pathologist of the East Suffolk Hospital.

MORTALITY TABLE for 1939.

Diseases	Registered in District			Out. Trans		In. Trans.		Total belonging to District.		
	M	F	Total	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total
Myocardial degeneration	8	15	23					7	15	22
Organic Heart disease ...	7	10	17				2	7	12	19
Cerebral Thrombosis ...	4	9	13					4	9	13
Cerebral Hæmorrhage...	8	8	16	1		2		9	8	17
Other diseases of Central nervous system ...	3	3	6			2		5	3	8
Cancer	8	17	25	1		1	2	8	19	27
Nephritis	8	5	13					8	5	13
Pneumonia	5	4	9			1		6	4	10
Bronchitis	3	6	9			1		4	6	10
Other Respiratory diseases	1	3	4					1	3	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1		1					1		1
Other Tuberculosis ...	1		1				1	1	1	2
Diabetes	1		1					1		1
Encephalitis Lethargica		1	1						1	1
Influenza	3	2	5	1				3	2	5
Diseases of newborn ...	4	2	6				1	4	3	7
Other diseases	5	3	8					5	3	8
Suicides	2		2					2		2
Deaths by violence or accidents	3	1	4			1		4	1	5
Totals	75	89	164	3		8	6	80	95	175

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The County pathologist examines sputum, blood, etc. for diagnostic purposes in cases of tuberculosis, syphilis, diphtheria, typhoid or other diseases.

The pathologist to the East Suffolk Hospital carries out similar examinations and has a supply of blood for transfusions if required.

Water and milk are analysed by the County analyst.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The Council's ambulance kept in a building adjoining the Fire station is used for the transport of patients to and from hospital, accidents, etc. Infectious cases are conveyed by the ambulance sent from the Isolation Hospital, Ipswich.

HOSPITALS. The Felixstowe Cottage Hospital has 34 beds all of which are available if necessary for the reception of Air raid casualties. 278 Evacuees and others were treated in hospital between September 1st, and the end of the year, 16 as in-patients and 262 as out-patients, the hospital is still being used for this purpose. The Suffolk Convalescent Home has sixty beds and is supported by voluntary contributions. At the outbreak of war, however, the patients were sent away and accommodation provided for 40 sick children. This measure was considered necessary in consequence of the Government evacuation scheme, many children having been received into this and the adjoining Deben Rural district.

The following statement gives details as to the use which has been made of the accommodation.

SUFFOLK CONVALESCENT HOME—SICK BAY.

Evacuees admitted from Sept. 2nd to Dec. 31st, 1939.

Ages ranging from 1 year to 14 years.

Boys	...	40
Girls	...	28
		—
		68
		—

Impetigo	...	...	19
Scabies	...	...	25
Urticaria	...	...	4
Asthma	...	...	2
Otitis Media	...	...	1
Enuresis	...	...	2
Abdominal Pain	...	...	1

Abscess of Axilla...	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	1
Osteomyelitis	...	1
Chorea	...	2
Debility	...	4
Fracture Radius and Ulna	...	1
? Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	1
Wound of Buttock	...	1
Bronchitis	...	1
Rheumatism	...	1
		<hr/>
		68
		<hr/>

Maximum number of patients present in the home at the same time	...	22
Average stay	...	20 days

The Bartlet Convalescent Home was emptied of its patients soon after the outbreak of war and reserved for the reception of Air raid casualties for which it will be used if necessary.

The Herman de Stearn Home, for the reception of patients from the London Hospital, was also vacated for the reception of possible Air raid casualties or sick women and children among the Evacuees.

At the outbreak of war it was found that many of the children sent into the district were suffering from contagious skin diseases and as it was undesirable to billet them with clean children, a hut belonging to the sea scouts was taken and several children were sent to it, under the charge of Nurse Sparkes, the former matron of our Isolation Hospital. After three weeks it was decided to use the Suffolk Convalescent Home for this purpose.

Disorganisation of public work, hardship, discomfort and inconvenience to individual householders, have naturally resulted from the Evacuation scheme, but that every effort has been made to cope with difficulties, is obvious from the admirable report of Mr. Greenwood, the Sanitary Inspector, which I insert verbatim.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

12th March, 1940.

Dear Dr. Conford,

I have made these notes on the Evacuation Scheme which you wished to include in your report.

Early in the year I was instructed to carry out the survey of accommodation which the Government required to be made in all reception areas and a great deal of time was spent on this and other work of preparing for a possible evacuation.

Helped by the willing service of local people, our plans for detrainning, distributing and billeting evacuees worked admirably when war broke out and the evacuees actually arrived, but the last minute change in the Government's plans and, in particular, their decision to send several thousand mothers and children by boat produced problems which we had never contemplated nor prepared ourselves to meet.

The task set us at a few days notice was to provide 1,800 additional permanent billets and to receive by boat 8,500 mothers and children during 3 consecutive days. No one knew at what hour of the day they would arrive and we were faced at 48 hours notice with the task of providing sleeping accommodation and food for these successive waves of evacuees and passing them on to other districts as soon as transport and accommodation could be found. In effect, this meant that 12,000 additional persons had to be found some kind of shelter and food unless we could quickly disperse the boat party to other parts of the County.

The numbers actually received were, providentially for us, very much below those we were told to expect and much better arrangements could have been made had we known this, even a few hours in advance, and not had to modify or improvise our arrangements after the actual arrival. The reception was spread over 3 days and the actual total numbers received were:—

By Boat—5,862 By Train—2,673 Total—8,535

All the train party and 360 members of the boat party were found permanent billets in Felixstowe on the day of arrival. The remaining members of the boat party were slept in empty houses, halls, etc., fed and despatched to other parts of East Suffolk to make room for the next batch. The boat party were distributed to the following county districts:—

Woodbridge	585	Aldeburgh	311	Deben	2,400
Blyth	1,176	Samford	860	Felixstowe	360

All this very trying and strenuous work was carried out with the willing help of all kinds of local people, amongst whom it would be invidious to mention names. The response made to our appeals for workers and the number who offered themselves in any capacity without any thought of reward or even of thanks is beyond all praise. If mistakes were made it should be remembered that the whole scheme, as it affected Felixstowe, became at the last moment a vast improvisation only carried through to success by dint of much cheerful team work.

R. GREENWOOD.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics have been held as usual every Thursday at the Salvation Army Hall, Walton, from 2—5 p.m. The attendances have totalled 1961.

The visits paid have been as follows:—

General nursing	...	..	3986
Surgical	...	...	366
Casual cases	...	...	496
Miscarriages	...	..	42
Midwifery	...	...	447
Maternity	...	...	1131
Health Visits	...	..	1117
Ante-natal	...	...	323
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	36

The evacuation has added considerably to the work, 57 attendances having been made by expectant mothers among the evacuees in addition to the 144 by those who are resident in the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. J. CONFORD, D.M., M.O.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting a short Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

WATER SUPPLY.

Particulars of the new supply were given in last year's report. Samples of the town supply were taken on the 10th January (before the Mill River water was added to the town supply) and on the 9th February (after the mixing). A sample was taken from the Mill River, Bucklesham, at the intake of the new water works on the 14th April for comparison with the treated water.

Copy of Certificate of Analysis of Water taken from tap at the Town Hall, Felixstowe, on the 9th February, 1939.

Result of Analysis.

Physical characteristics :	...	Clear.	No odour.
Reaction :	...	...	pH. 7.3
			Parts per 100,000
Free Ammonia	...	...	0.004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.002
Oxygen absorbed in 2 hours at 37°C			0.030
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	Trace
Nitrites	...	...	Nil
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	4.50
Total Hardness	...	...	—
Permanent Hardness	...	...	—
Temporary Hardness	...	...	—
Total Suspended Matter		...	—
Volatile Suspended Matter		...	—
Solids in Solution at 100°C		...	—
Biological Oxygen Demand		...	—
Poisonous Metals	...	...	Nil
Impurity Figure	...	...	—

Bacteriological Examination :—

No B.Coli present in 25 ml.

Remarks :—The analysis of this water shows no evidence of harmful pollution. In my opinion it is fit for all domestic and drinking purposes.

(Signed) S. BIDDLE,

Acting County Bacteriologist,
County Laboratory,

15th February, 1939. Bond Street, Ipswich.

Copy of Certificate of Analysis of Water for Domestic Purposes.

Sample received from R. Greenwood, Esq., Felixstowe Urban District Council of Town Hall, Felixstowe, on the 14th April, 1939, and labelled "Mill River, Bucklesham. Intake of Felixstowe Water Works."

Result of Analysis.

Physical characteristics :	...	Clear.	No odour.
Reaction :	...	...	pH. 6.6
			Parts per 100,000
Free Ammonia	...	...	0.003
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.014
Oxygen absorbed in 2 hours at 37°C			0.050
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	Trace
Nitrites	...	...	Nil
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	4.00
Total Hardness	...	...	—
Permaneni Hardness	...	...	—
Temporary Hardness	...	...	—
Total Suspended Matter	...	...	—
Volatile Suspended Matter	...	...	—
Solids in Solution dried at 100°C	...	...	—
Biological Oxygen Demand	...	...	—
Poisonous Metals	...	...	Nil
Impurity Figure	...	...	—

Bacteriological Examination :—

B. Coli present in 25 ml.

Remarks :—Though the presence of B. Coli points to some contamination with animal matter, this water should provide a satisfactory domestic supply if properly treated.

(Signed) H. M. CADE,

County Bacteriologist,
County Laboratory,
Bond Street, Ipswich.

20th April, 1939.

WELLS.

A sample of water from the shallow well supplying Ferry Lane School and the adjoining Cottage was taken on the 31st January and reported as showing no evidence of harmful pollution.

RIVERS and STREAMS.

No action has been necessary during the year to check the pollution of rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Particulars of sanitary accommodation are as follows :

Houses with water closets connected			
to sewers	...	...	3541
Houses with water closets draining			
direct to sea	...	...	9
Houses with pail closets	...	...	110
Houses with privies	...	...	6
Houses drained to cesspools or septic			
tanks	...	...	83
			<hr/>
			3749
			<hr/>

104 new dwellings were erected during the year.

No conversions of pails to the water carriage system were carried out.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection is under the control of the Surveyor. Particulars of the service given have been included in previous reports.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received	...	...	122
Number of houses inspected under the Public			
Health Act and Housing Acts.	...	...	48
Number of houses inspected and recorded			
under the Housing Act.	...	...	13
			<hr/>

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Number of inspections of houses under the Public Health Act and Housing Acts				185
Bakehouses	...	...	...	24
Fishfryers	...	...	...	42
Beach Hut Sites	...	...	...	45
Stables, Piggeries and keeping of Animals	...	...	...	16
Overcrowding	...	...	...	10
Refuse accommodation	..	...	...	96
Ice Cream premises	..	...	...	16
Tents, Vans, Camping sites, etc.	...	...	...	92
Sanitary Defects and nuisances	...	...	...	43
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	11
Smoke observations	...	...	...	7
Cesspools	...	...	...	61
Closet accommodation	...	...	...	7
Interviews	...	...	...	57
Schools	...	...	...	1
Water samples	...	...	...	4
Water supplies	...	...	...	9
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	4
Rat infestation	...	...	...	48
Shops inspected (Shops Act)	...	...	...	7
DRAINAGE.				
Drains examined	...	...	...	130
„ tested with water	...	...	...	17
„ tested with smoke	...	...	...	13
„ cleared	...	...	...	9
„ repaired or relaid 127 ft.	...	...	...
MILK AND DAIRIES.				
Cowsheds	...	...	...	28
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	39
Samples of Milk taken	...	...	...	31
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.				
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	798
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	75
Other Food premises	...	...	...	3
FACTORIES.				
Factories (including factory bakehouse)	...	...	...	5
Workshops	...	...	...	12

1945

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

The number of inspections made under this Act
during the year was 7
No certificates of exemption were issued.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of sites licensed by the Council for camping 3
Applications refused 3
Efforts were made to improve the conditions under
which camping is done in the Urban District. The
greatest obstacle to such improvements is the
exemption of 42 days from the necessity of holding
a licence from the Local Authority. This period
well covers the peak of the season and robs the
Local Authority of effective control just when they
most need it.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The district is free from industrial smoke.

HOUSING.

Number of houses inspected under the Public
Health and Housing Acts 48
Number of inspections made for the purpose 185
Number of houses recorded under the Housing
Regulations 13
Informal notices served Public Health Act 92
Informal notices served Housing Act 25
Statutory notices served Public Health Act 1
Statutory notices served Housing Act 4
One house was reported as being unfit for human
habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense. No,
undertaking was given by the owner to repair or close the
house and the matter is in abeyance.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Two new cowsheds were registered during the year
one a conversion of an old shed and one an entirely new
building.

There are now in the district:—

9 registered cowsheds.

7 registered dairies.

8 persons registered as purveyors of milk in sealed
bottles or cartons only.

Dairymen holding special licences from the Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, are as follows:—

Bottlers of T.T. Milk	...	1
Dealers in T.T. Milk	...	2
Dealers in T.T. Milk (Certified)		1
Licensed Pasteurisers	...	1
Bottlers of Accredited Milk	..	2
Dealers in Accredited Milk	..	1
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk	...	2
		<hr/>
		10
		<hr/>

A sample of a cowshed water supply was taken and found to be free from all harmful pollution.

28 inspections of cowsheds were made during the year.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR CLEANLINESS.

31 samples of graded and "ordinary" milks were submitted to the County Laboratory, Ipswich, for bacteriological examination:—

T.T. Milk	...	...	6
Accredited	...	...	8
Pasteurised	...	..	11
Ungraded	...	...	6
			<hr/>
			31
			<hr/>

MILK FAILING TO COMPLY.

6 samples of graded milks (3 Pasteurised and 3 Accredited) failed to comply with the required standards of bacterial purity. The Accredited milk was produced in East Suffolk and investigations were made by the County Sanitary Inspector. The unsatisfactory Pasteurised milk was from a supply pasteurised outside the district.

There were also two samples of ordinary milk of unsatisfactory standard.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 2 licensed and 3 registered slaughterhouses in the district.

798 visits of inspection to slaughterhouses during slaughtering hours were made during the year and 75 to butchers' shops. These inspections were suspended for a period, and thereafter much reduced, by the work of receiving the evacuees which arrived here on the outbreak of war.

DETAILS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED.

Beasts	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
371	704	59	2485

PARTICULARS OF PARTS OF CARCASSES OR ORGANS CONDEMNED.

TUBERCULOUS.

11	beasts heads
10	„ tongues
8	„ lungs
4	„ livers
1	„ mesentery
3	pigs carcasses and offals
75	„ heads
7	„ plucks
14	„ mesenteries
1	„ liver
1	„ lung

NON-TUBERCULOUS.

12	beasts livers
1	„ heart
1	„ lung
4	pigs livers
10	lbs pressed veal

Approximate total weight of meat condemned—1894 lbs.

All condemned meat is destroyed at the Council's refuse destructor.

No cows, bulls or boars were slaughtered during the year. The butchers kill only good class animals.

It was necessary to seize and have formally condemned by a magistrate a quantity of unsound fish which was found deposited for preparation for sale at a fish shop. Legal proceedings were not instituted.

HUMANE SLAUGHTERING.

The use of the humane killer is compulsory on all classes of animals and the law requiring its use is well observed.

MEAT REGULATIONS (ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING).

One case of slaughtering without notice was reported during the year and the butcher received a warning.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The District Council took over these duties in 1939. 48 inspections were made during the year and 10 notices given.

During March a "Rat Week" was held and 2d. offered for every rat brought to the Council Depot. The result was disappointing, only 186 rats being brought in.

THE GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

A great part of the work of this department during the year has been concerned with the Evacuation Scheme. Full arrangements were made for the reception of evacuees at distributing centres and all things considered the arrangements worked well when they had to be put into operation in September. From that date to the end of the year evacuation matters necessarily became my chief concern.

Complaints of nuisances and insanitary conditions have been attended to and such other public health duties as it is imperative to carry out, but the number and variety of questions arising out of the presence of the evacuees has left no time for routine sanitary inspections as understood in normal peace time conditions.

I would like to express my appreciation of the help and advice given me by Dr. Conford in coping with the many unusual problems arising out of the evacuation scheme and also to record the very valuable assistance given me in the same work by my clerk, Mr. W. Hubbard.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT GREENWOOD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

March, 1940.

Sanitary Inspector.

